

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00

EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 /058 W

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R 221808Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3452

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: VENTEJOL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY. GABRIEL VENTEJOL OF FO WAS ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL THUS
BECOMING FIFTH RANKING PERSONALITY IN FRANCE. CGT-CFDT
VOTED FOR CGT CANDIDATE MORE IN OPPOSITION TO FO
THAN TO VENTEJOL. END SUMMARY.

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2. GABRIEL VENTEJOL, FORCE OUVRIERE SECRETARY SINCE

1950, WAS ELECTED 16 OCTOBER PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL BY 132 VOTES AGAINST 30 OF CGT AND CFDT MEMBERS WHO VOTED FOR CGT AND ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE J. SCHAEFER AND 22 BLANK.

3. ELECTION MAKES VENTEJOL FIFTH RANKING PERSONALITY IN FRANCE (OTHER THAN PRESIDENT AND GOF MEMBERS) SUCCEEDING EMILE ROCHE WHO HELD POSITION SINCE 1954 AFTER DEATH OF FIRST SEC PRESIDENT AND HISTORIC FIGURE LEON JOUHAUX.

4. VENTEJOL IS A FRIEND OF THE U.S. AND HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SUCCESSIVE LABOR ATTACHES IN THE EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH VENTEJOL'S ELECTION IS A TRIBUTE TO HIS PERSONAL QUALITIES, IT CANNOT BUT REFLECT CREDIT ON HIS ORGANIZATION, THE FORCE OUVRIERE. IN FACT, OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE CGT-CFDT VOTE FOR SCHAEFER WAS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF OBJECTION TO VENTEJOL BUT AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE FO'S BENEFIT FROM THE ELECTION BY MAKING FO APPEAR AS AN ORGANIZATION THAT ENJOYS PRIVILEGED RELATIONS WITH GOF AND DRAWS SUPPORT FROM SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS THAT ARE ANTAGONISTIC TO LABOR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT AFL-CIO BE INFORMED OF FOREGOING WITH SUGGESTION THAT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BE SENT TO VENTEJOL.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS24968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0368
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741027/aaaaawpc.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENTEJOL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL
TAGS: ELAB, FR, (VENTEJOL, GABRIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005